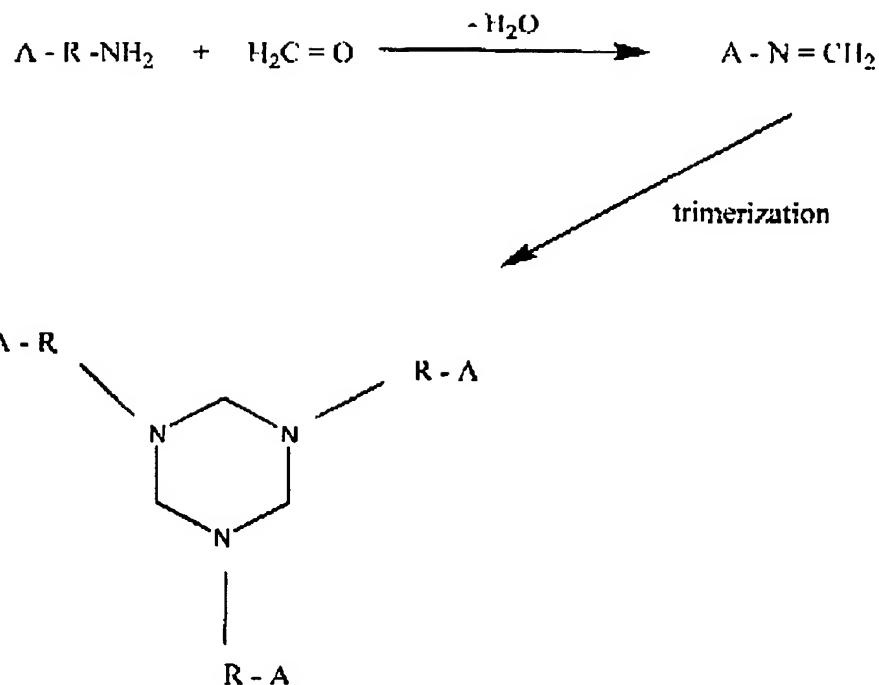


REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claim 6 has been amended to correct an editorial error. Claims 7 and 16 have been amended to recite a formula which is more conventional of an amine oxide. This more conventional formula appears in Claims 6 and 14, upon which Claims 7 and 16 respectively depend. (The specification has further been amended to be consistent with the formula in the amended dependent claims.) Claim 23 has been amended to bring the claim into conformance with arguments previously presented regarding the scope of Claim 23. No new matter has been added to the amended specification or amended claims. Claims 1-23 are therefore active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejection over Pounds. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 8-14 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,462,721 ("Pounds"). The Examiner bases the rejection on the alleged disclosure in *Pounds* to the use of monoethanolamines and/or polyamines as a hydrogen scavenger. *Pounds*, however, does not disclose the use of monoethanolamines or a polyamine as a hydrogen scavenger but rather the reaction product of a monoethanolamine (or polyamine) and an aldehyde. The claims of Applicants recite the use of monoalkanolamines or polyamines as a hydrogen scavenger and *not* the reaction product of a monoethanolamine (or polyamine) and an aldehyde.

The reaction of a monoethanolamine and an aldehyde or polyamine may be schematically described as:



wherein A is - OH or - NH₂

The reaction product of *Pounds* is described as being "stoichiometrically balanced" (col. 5, ll. 41-44); thus, no free monoethanolamine (or polyamine) or aldehyde would remain.

Pounds further discloses the use of an "enhancing amine" to be used in conjunction with the reaction product in order to reduce the formation of gels. Note that the "enhancing amine", which may be an alkanolamine or polyamine, functions as a *reaction product* also. See, for instance, col. 9, ll. 5-22.

Lastly, it is noted that the Examiner has provided no basis for the rejection of Claims 5 (morpholine bottoms) and 6 (amine oxide) over *Pounds*. *Pounds* does not disclose morpholine bottoms or amine oxide as a hydrogen scavenger.

In summary, since *Pounds* does not disclose the use of monoethanolamines or polyamines as a hydrogen scavenger but rather the *reaction product of an aldehyde with a monoethanolamine*, the rejection of *Pounds* should not be maintained. Reconsideration is therefore requested.

Examiner's Rejection Over Warrender. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 8-14 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,267,938 ("Warrender"). This ground for rejection is traversed.

Warrender discloses the use of reaction products of an aldehyde and an aminoethylpiperazine with an "enhancing" amine. The Examiner relies upon col. 7, II. 26-48 of *Warrender* to support the rejection. This passage is directed to the use of alkanolamines and polyamines as "enhancing amines" (or "second amine") and is a mere restatement of *Ponnda*, discussed *supra*. Table 2, also relied upon by the Examiner, recites the use of aminoethylmorpholine as the "enhancing" amine. (Table 2 does not disclose polyamines.) According to col. 3, II. 49-64, the second amine, like the first amine, reacts with the aldehyde. (See, col. 2, II. 46-48.) Even if the second amine did not react with the first amine, none of the functions assigned to the second amine (col. 3, II. 29-36), are equated with its use as a hydrogen sulfide scavenger per se.

Further, the rejection of Claims 5 (morpholine) and 6 (amine oxide) is not understood since neither morpholine nor amine oxide is referenced in *Warrender*. Neither is the rejection of Claim 21 over *Warrender* understood because Claim 21 is directed to a method for scavenging mercaptans. *Warrender* is directed to a method of scavenging hydrogen sulfide and organic sulfides, not mercaptans.

Examiner's Rejection Over Oakes. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 8-14 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,452,764 ("Oakes"). The Examiner's rejection is not understood and is therefore traversed.

None of Claims 1, 5-6, 10-14, 18-20 are even remotely disclosed in *Oakes*. *Oakes*, at best, discloses inhibitors effective in alkanolamines. *Oakes* makes no reference to triazines, nitrogen heterocyclic compounds, amine oxides or polyamines.

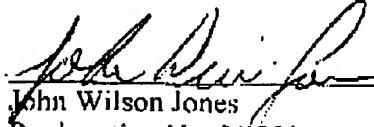
Further, *Oakes* does not disclose the invention of Applicants defined in Claims 21-23. Alkanolamines are recited only in Applicants' Claims 8-9, 17, 21 and 23. Claims 8, 9 and 17 are dependent on Claims 21, 21 and 23, respectively. Claim 21 references the scavenging of mercaptans. *Oakes* does not disclose treatment of mercaptans, only hydrogen sulfide. Claim 23 is directed to a liquid stream. *Oakes* is only directed to the treatment of gaseous streams.

Conclusion. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite the prosecution of this application. It is believed that the claims to the amendments and the remarks

expressed herein put this application in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

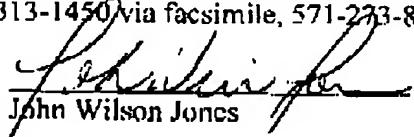
Dated: March 14, 2006


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION, 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via facsimile, 571-273-8300 on this 14th day of March, 2006.


John Wilson Jones